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12 December 1960

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Copy No. Ed-5

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

International Communism: The second document issued by the November Moscow meeting of world Communist leaders--a so-called "Peace Appeal"--is similar in form and content to the Peace Manifesto issued in 1957 at the conclusion of an earlier meeting of world Communists, emphasizing both their "overwhelming desire for peace" and their belief that war can be prevented. The recent appeal is a pedestrian propaganda statement whose calls for "complete and controlled disarmament," nuclear-free zones, and opposition to testing of nuclear weapons merely repeat long-standing Soviet foreign policy themes.

Paralleling some of the ambiguity of the much longer declarations issued on 6 December, the "Peace Appeal" takes an aggressive tack on colonialism and imperialism and reiterates that war is a continuing danger because of the existence of imperialism generally, and "American imperialism" specifically.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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***France-Algeria:** Disturbances in Algeria have assumed critical proportions with thousands of Moslems participating for the first time. French Army troops have been forced to act against the Moslems. The French troops had adopted a "passive" defense against European demonstrators, leaving the active burden to security police. The European group, who will be angered by the Moslem action, has appeared poorly organized but might gain cohesion if either or both of the rightist leaders Pierre Lagaillarde and General Salan reach Algeria from Spain.

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Laos: [Military reinforcements for a possible attack on Vientiane by General Phoumi apparently are continuing to arrive in that area. In the capital itself, an extreme leftist cabinet minister, Quinim Pholsena, reportedly has taken charge of the government in the absence of Souvanna and the remainder of his cabinet. Souvanna, now in Phnom Penh, is said by his associates to be planning to send some cabinet members to Hanoi, Moscow, and Peiping to seek active support for the neutralization of Laos as formerly proposed by Cambodian chief of state Prince Sihanouk. Meanwhile,]

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[] observed four howitzers, approximately equivalent to US 105-mm. howitzers, being unloaded from two Soviet aircraft at Vientiane airfield; this materiel, probably the forerunner of other supplies, may have been arranged for during Quinim Pholsena's recent trip to Hanoi.]

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The Situation in Laos

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[the Savannakhet troops under the command of Phoumi are being organized into three groups for an attack on the capital from the north, east, and west and will have two batteries of 105-mm. howitzers for artillery support. Phoumi is said to be planning his attack on 12 or 13 December, the precise timing dependent on the arrival of his troops at their positions. Kong Le's forces, who still control the airfield, apparently have received some artillery brought in by Soviet aircraft. On 11 December [report they saw four howitzers, approximately equivalent to US-105s, unloaded from two Soviet planes and towed to an improvised gun park within an old aircraft revetment on Vientiane airfield.]

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[Quinim Pholsena, extreme leftist minister of information in Premier Souvanna Phouma's cabinet, is reported to have taken over the government in Vientiane in the absence of Souvanna and other cabinet ministers who flew to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 9 December. An 11 December communiqué of the military committee that assumed control when Souvanna fled stated that it had, as of noon, returned all civil and military powers "to the government"--presumably to Quinim as the remaining minister. Quinim visited Sam Neua on 9 December, probably to discuss Pathet Lao intentions with Prince Souphanouvong, and on 10 December made a hurried visit to Hanoi, where he may have arranged for the supply of artillery and possibly other materiel to follow.]

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[In Phnom Penh, [Souvanna Phouma [plans to remain there for a time but intends to send some of the cabinet ministers now with him to Hanoi, Moscow, and Peiping in order to seek support for the plan of Cambodian chief [

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of state Sihanouk for neutralization of Laos. Souvanna hinted that his emissaries would also "publicize" Vientiane charges of US intervention in Laotian affairs.]

[Efforts are still being made, meanwhile, to convene a meeting of the National Assembly, a large number of whose members are now in Savannakhet, for the purpose of taking steps to establish a new legal government in Laos.]

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